

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 /065 W

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R 051545Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4941

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DSBPIP

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSIO NATO BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUXEMBOURG 0145

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, SOPN, LU

SUBJ: THORN DISASSOCIATES GOL FROM CHARGES OF KGB ACTIVITY
IN LUXEMBOURG

REF: LUXEMBOURG 0015

1. PRIME MINISTER GASTON THORN TOLD THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FEBRUARY 3 THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NO INFORMATION CORROBORATING
RECENT REVELATIONS OF SOVIET INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN
LUXEMBOURG. THORN REJECTED THE REQUEST OF COMMUNIST DEPUTY
AND PARTY CHIEF RENE URBANY FOR A FORMAL INQUIRY INTO THE
RECENT FLURRY OF CHARGES CONCERNING THE SOVIET EMBASSY'S PRESS
AND CULTURAL ATTACHES, BUT SAID IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION FROM URBANY THAT HE DID NOT SUPPORT THE
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CHARGES. HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE NUMBER OF SOVIET

OFFICIALS IN LUXEMBOURG WAS EXCESSIVE IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE NUMBER OF THOSE ACTUALLY ACCREDITED AS DIPLOMATS AND RESIDING WITH THEIR FAMILIES IN THE GRAND DUCHY CORRESPONDED ROUGHLY TO THAT OF "OTHER GREAT POWERS."

2. THORN DECLARED THAT "OUR RELATIONS WITH THE USSR HAVE IMPROVED GREATLY OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS" AND SAID IT WAS NOT NECESSARY FOR THE GOL TO PASS JUDGMENT ON THE ACCURACY OF EVERY EXPOSE OF SPY ACTIVITIES WHICH APPEARED IN THE PRESS, PARTICULARLY GIVEN THEIR CURRENT FASHIONABILITY. ASSURING THE ASSEMBLY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT HESITATE TO TAKE "NECESSARY MEASURES" IF IT FOUND PROOF OF ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES, HE SAT DOWN AS PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ROSE AGAIN WITH EVIDENT RELIEF TO DISCUSS, AS MINISTER OF SPORTS, A PROPOSED NEW LAW CONCERNING PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

3. COMMENT: THORN'S SOOTHING DENIAL THAT THE GOL SHARED TIME'S ASSESSMENT OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY'S EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WAS CLEARLY WHAT URBANY WANTED, AND HIS REFUSAL TO MOUNT A FULL-SCALE INQUIRY WAS WHAT HE EXPECTED. WHILE EMBARRASSING THE SOVIETS AND POSSIBLY DECREASING SLIGHTLY THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PRESS AND CULTURAL ATTACHE WHO WERE IDENTIFIED AS KGB AND GRU OFFICERS, THE CHARGES ARE NOT EXPECTED TO INFLUENCE SIGNIFICANTLY THE CURRENT DEBATE OVER THE RESTRUCTURING OF LUXEMBOURG INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. THAT QUESTION, CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE CONSEIL D'ETAT, IS EXPECTED TO COME BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY SOON. FARKAS

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